better be hanged : You hunt-counter[3], hence 1 avaunt!

ATTEN. Sir, my lord would speak with you.

dr. JUST. Sir John Falstaff., a word with you.

F^tL My good lord!—God give your lordship good time of day. I am glad to see your lordship abroad: I heard say, your lordship was sick: I hope, your lordship goes abroad by advice. Your lordship, though not clean past your youth, hath yet some smack of age in you, some relish of the saltness of time: and I most humbly beseech your lordship, to have a reverend care of your health.

CH. JUST. Sir John, I sent for you before your expedition to Shrewsbury.

F^L. An't please your lordship, I hear, his majesty is returned with some discomfort from Wales.

3 —hunt-counter] That is, blunderer. He does not, I think, allude to any relation between the judge's servant and the counter-prison. JOHNSON.

Dr. Johnson's explanation may be countenanced by the following passage in Ben Jonson's Tale of a Tub:

"Do you mean to make a hare
Of me, to *hunt counter* thus, and make these doubles.
" And you mean no such thing as you send about ? "

Again, in Hamlet:

" O, this is *counter*, you false Danish dogs!"

It should not, however, be concealed, that Randle Holme, in his Academy of Armory and Blazon, book iii. ch. 3, says: " *Hunt counter*, when hounds *hunt it by the heel*." STEEVENS.

Hunt counter means, *base tyke*, or *worthless dog*. There can be no reason why Falstaff should call the attendant a blunderer, but he seems very anxious to prove him a *rascal*. After all, it is not impossible the word may be found to signify a *catchpole* or *bum-bailiff*. He was probably the Judge's *tipstaff*. KITSON.

Perhaps the epithet *hunt-counter* is applied to the officer, in reference to his having reverted to Falstaff's

salvo. HENLEY.

I think it much more probable that Falstaff means to allude to the *counter-prison.* Sir T, Overbury, in his character of A Serjeant's Yeoman, 1616, (in modern language, a *bailiff's follower,*) calls him " a cotter-rat." MALONE,

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